



## Community and Faith Based Meet Up With Workforce Development in September

The Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB) and the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI) received a grant from Performance Excellence Partners, Inc. (PEP) of Huntington Beach, California to conduct a program with the Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The purpose of the grant is to convene faith-based and community organizations to share and gather information, establish a clear understanding of the state's workforce system (WorkOne), and to develop solutions and strategies to facilitate the involvement of these groups in building a network in conjunction with WorkOne.

Two dates are being offered. The first event will take place on September 9th from 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. at the Genesis Center in Gary the second will be held on September 25th from 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. at the Strongbow Inn in Valparaiso. Registration is at no cost and will feature presentations, panel discussions, and working groups. A continental breakfast and lunch is included.

CWI intends to provide a snapshot of the current state and need for a skilled workforce in the manufacturing and healthcare industries, share the diversity and value of how the state's One Stop career system, known as WorkOne, could help the communities they serve, and build a network between the faith-based and community groups with the local WorkOne offices.

To register on line visit [www.theeventconn.com](http://www.theeventconn.com) or for further information call 219-462-2940.

## [www.gotoworkonenw.com](http://www.gotoworkonenw.com) *Launches!*

The Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI), Regional Operator for the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board (NWIWB), unveiled the new WorkOne regional website integrating the 12 WorkOne offices in Northwest Indiana.

[www.gotoworkonenw.com](http://www.gotoworkonenw.com) will provide information and resources to businesses looking for the right people and to those looking for the right job or career. Employers, job seekers, youth, and faith-based and community organizations throughout the seven counties of Northwest Indiana (Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke) will be invited to discover the services and resources available at WorkOne centers from the comfort of their homes and offices.

Employers will be able to attain convenient access to labor news and information, services specific to their workforce development needs including recruitment and screening assistance, and assistance on seeking cost-effective training grant opportunities. Job seekers can visit and find valuable information related to WorkOne placement assistance and other services such as current job postings.

[www.gotoworkonenw.com](http://www.gotoworkonenw.com) also includes links to unemployment insurance, as well as special services available to veterans, job seekers over the age of 55, and those in special circumstances or with specific barriers to employment. Links also include sites and resources for young job seekers in the process of career planning. The site incorporates a calendar of events, job fair listings, skill assessment testing, and workshops.

Currently, work is being done to incorporate a portal especially for NWIWB members allowing them to obtain and post information specific to their board work.



## Board Side with Gerald Scheff NWIWB Chairman of the Board

July/August 2008



Gerald Scheff is the Human Resources Manager (Bearings) at Emerson Power Transmission, a major producer of power transmission drives, components and bearings, located in Valparaiso. Prior to joining Emerson, he managed the human resources department and served as the Director of Training at MPI in Knox, a global leader and supplier of fineblanked components. Scheff holds a B.A. from Purdue, an M.A. and MBA from Ball State, and a MSBA from IU.

**Why did you agree to serve on the NWIWB?** At the beginning, it was to serve the needs of Starke County and now it's to serve the needs of our region.

**What other organizations are you actively involved with?** United Way of Porter County and Junior Achievement of Northwest Indiana.

**Did your career go in a different direction than you had initially planned?** I'm doing what I had originally planned. The route there didn't follow the map I had laid out, however, all the fun is in the journey not the destination.

**What do you feel is a critical issue that must be addressed in order to move our region forward on staying nationally and globally competitive?** We need to grow and retain our advanced manufacturing base. This region has seen a large number of high paying jobs go by the wayside. Service jobs have traditionally paid significantly less. Those high paying jobs are what made this area prosper.

## Staff Side Update—Welcoming Two New Staffers

**Robyn M. Minton** recently joined the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI) staff as Vice President of Operations. Supporting the CEO, she will work to drive internal operations of the corporation in supporting the strategic direction, while working with the management staff to achieve operational goals and objectives. Minton will also handle routine tasks of capacity building, staff supervision, and maintaining a framework of quality improvement. She comes to the region from Nashville, Tennessee where she spent 21 years in the nonprofit world. She spent the past 8 years as Program Director for the YWCA's Career Progression program, which was the state's largest domestic violence services program.

Minton holds a B.S. in Sociology from Kentucky Wesleyan College and a Masters in Counseling from Trevecca Nazarene University and from Vanderbilt University's Nonprofit Management Scholarship program she received her Masters in Business Administration.

**Tim Post** is the new Information Technology Director brought in by CWI to oversee all aspects of the WorkOne multi-office regional technology department. This includes management of networks, connections, computers, printers, other peripherals, back up and data security, including the oversight of IT business practices, and other aspects related to technology and the overall work of the WorkOne system and partners. Post previously held Technology Manager and Director positions with KV Works. He has a Computer Technology degree from Purdue University North Central and holds several Microsoft certifications.

### Dates to Remember

<b>NWIWB Board Meeting</b>	Thursday, October 16, 2008 2:00-4:00 p.m. Purdue Academic Center-Crown Point
<b>Working as One-Building Your Community Network</b> (A faith-based and community collaboration)	Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2008 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Gary Genesis Center and Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Strongbow Inn
<b>Workforce Development Summit</b>	Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008 8:00 a.m.—Noon Radisson Plaza-Merrillville

### DATA

#### Labor Market Profile

#### Unemployment Rates (%)

	May 2008	June 2008
United States	5.2	5.7
Indiana	5.2	5.8
Jasper Co.	5.5	5.5
Lake Co.	5.3	6.1
LaPorte Co.	5.3	5.8
Newton Co.	5.4	5.6
Porter Co.	4.2	4.7
Pulaski Co.	4.9	5.4
Starke Co.	6.8	7.3